



# Pianos for Christmas

Stieff's Big Holiday Sale of High-Grade Pianos Will Continue Until Christmas.

Our sale of FINE PIANOS during the past week has FAR EXCEEDED our most sanguine expectations. In fact, the demand for the "ARTISTIC STIEFF" has been so great that we have been forced to duplicate several hurry orders to be able to take care of our ENORMOUS CHRISTMAS TRADE.

Why not join the army of pleased patrons that are being made happy each day by purchasing a

Piano from this time-honored firm, which is one of the oldest in the history of America's Piano industry, and one which has won its big and well deserved reputation for the high quality of its product, together with its unquestionable and honorable dealing with the public for over half a century.

WHAT GREATER JOY COULD COME TO YOUR ENTIRE HOUSEHOLD ON XMAS MORN-

ING than of awakening to find that "Santa Claus" had left one of our celebrated instruments, which for all years to come would give unspeakable pleasure to the entire home?

As an inducement to buy a Piano at the present time, our Christmas Sale of 1906 gives to the Richmond public the greatest opportunity ever BEFORE OFFERED at the holiday season in the purchase of high-grade Pianos, IN MAKING



A Big Discount from the Regular Price on Every Piano in Our Store Both in the Celebrated STIEFF and the Other High-Grade Makes Which We Handle.

## How Do These Prices Strike You?

Two Fine Uprights, mahogany cases, three pedals, fully guaranteed, only - - - - -

**\$157.00 EACH**

STOOL AND SCARF FREE.

We Will Sell Only Two of These Pianos at the Above Sacrifice Figure

We have on hand a great many used Pianos of many STANDARD makes, all of which we traded in as part payment on the Stieff.

If you don't mind having a Piano of this kind, be sure to see us.

One Steinway, Special Value, - - - - -	\$250.00
One Mason & Hamlin, of the finest style and as good as new, \$299.00	
One Knabe, full size, - - - - -	\$150.00
One Fisher, Full size, - - - - -	\$150.00

Our easy-payment plan makes it possible for any one to buy one of our instruments. your Piano Christmas eve if you wish it. If you live out of town, and wish a piano for Christmas, write at once and we will give your letter prompt attention.

## Have You Ever Heard the Stieff Self Player Piano?

If not, you have a rare treat in store for you. It is the most perfect and "up-to-date" instrument of its kind on the market to-day. It does away with the awkward player setting in front of your piano, but to all appearances is simply a Piano in your parlor. This Self-Player was

not put on the market as a competitor of the many instruments of the kind already sold, but as a distinct advance in the problem of "Piano Players." By means of its wonderful mechanism, a performer of no musical training whatever is enabled to interpret the music of the great masters better than the average artist.

Call and see this instrument.

Free concerts daily from 4 until 6 P. M. The public is cordially invited.

# Chas. M. Stieff,

Manufacturer of the Piano With the Sweet Tone. ESTABLISHED 1842.

205 East Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia.

Store Open Evenings Until Christmas.

L. B. SLAUGHTER, Manager.

## LAWYERS WRECK FAULT OF MATTOX

Investigation by Southern Railway Places Responsibility on the Operator.

DID NOT OBEY THE RULES

Failure to Do So Made Possible the Accident That Cost Lives of Prominent Men.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 17.—The official investigation into the rear-end collision which occurred at Lawyers, Va., on Thanksgiving Day, and in which President Spencer, of the Southern, and six others, including a number of prominent people, lost their lives, has been concluded, and the responsibility for the wreck placed on G. D. Mattox, block operator at Rangoon Station, Va.

General Counsel A. P. Thom, of the railroad, to-day issued the following statement announcing the official conclusions:

"Train No. 33, bound south with Mr. Spencer's car, No. 100, on the rear-end, had, by the block operator at Rangoon block station, G. D. Mattox, been let into the block between Rangoon and the next

block station to the south, known as Lawyers, and before the block was cleared of that train Mattox also let into the same block train first 27, which, not knowing in time that train No. 33 was in the block, ran into it and caused the catastrophe.

"After passing Rangoon that morning train No. 33, which, besides the engine and tender, consisted of a postal car, an express car, a combined baggage and second-class passenger car, a first-class car, two sleeping cars and the president's car, No. 100 (here named in their order from the engine), at a point some distance over a mile from Rangoon station, separated into two parts because of the springing of a coupling between the express car and the combined car. The emergency brake at once applied automatically on both sections of the parted train, as intended in case of just such contingencies, and both sections were stopped.

"Company's Rules Violated. Under these circumstances if the rules of the company had been obeyed no other train could have passed Rangoon or entered the block in which this disabled train was.

"The undisputed testimony shows that no less than three different rules of the company were violated by Mattox, the operator at Rangoon, the observance of any one of which would have prevented the accident.

"One of the rules (Rule 118) provides as follows: 'When a train enters a block the signalman must give O. S. train No. —, and the time to next block station in advance, and when the train has passed the home block and the signalman has seen the markers, he must display the stop signal, and when the rear of the train has passed 200 feet beyond the home block signal he must give by block clear —, and the time to the next block station in the rear. This information must be entered on the block records.'

"The operator at Lawyers did not give this information to Mattox, the operator at Rangoon, as to train No. 33. Mattox, therefore, not having received the required information in regard to the movements of train No. 33, violated this rule in regarding the block as clear of that train before letting in the following train, known as first 27.

"His excuse is that the operator at Lawyers did report train No. 33 as 'by' Lawyers, but failed to give him the time it passed, as required by the rule. There is some confusion in his testimony as to whether this occurred before first 27 passed Rangoon or just afterwards, but the operator at Lawyers emphatically denies that he sent any such message as is claimed by Mattox, and declares that Mattox had never even informed him that train No. 33 wanted the block, or had entered it.

"It was under these circumstances his clear duty, under Rule 118, to stop train first 27 and not admit it to the block. He admits this and that if he had obeyed the rule the accident could not have happened.

"The Human Factor Failed. 'It will thus be seen that from evidence that is not disputed the human factor failed at the decisive moment, and caused this great catastrophe.

"Mattox himself is a Virginian by birth, having been born and reared in Franklin county, the adjoining county to the one in which the accident occurred. He had been employed in pursuance of the policy of the company to recruit its ranks from among the people along its lines, whose antecedents and environments are known.

"He was twenty-two years old, had been in the employment of the company as an operator for about two years, was educated as an operator and, before being permitted to undertake the duties of an operator, was duly examined on block rules, train orders and other matters pertaining to the telegraph service by W. J. Copman, chief dispatcher. He had at the time of the accident been operator at Rangoon about twenty months.

"There is some conflict in the testimony as to the conduct of Jacobs, the operator at Lawyers. The above conclusions, however, have been reached without considering any controverted testimony.

**MURDER CHARGE FALLS TO GROUND**  
Man Arrested in Danville as Being Responsible for Wreck Not to Be Prosecuted.

dict of the coroner's jury which investigated the accident. The verdict stated that the cause of the death of the two wreck victims was because of incompetent employees and careless management on the part of the Southern, but named no individual person or persons. Telegraph Operators Skinnell and Cramer and the fireman will not appear in court, having been advised as to the action the Mayor would take.

## Daily Court Record

Circuit Court.

In the suit of the Trice Transfer Company vs. the E. Kewler Company in this court yesterday a verdict was returned for the plaintiff for \$26.88. The defendants counsel made a motion to set aside the verdict as contrary to the law and evidence. The motion was continued.

The suit of the Adams Grain and Provision Company vs. the Seide Grain Company, on an attachment, was dismissed.

Law and Equity Court.

Suits instituted—Clara B. Dettor vs. W. D. Arwood, for \$200; American National Bank vs. American Hygienic Brick Fire-Proofing Company—D. Wiley Anderson, Julian T. Wright, J. F. Chalmers and W. P. Veitch for \$200; Elizabeth L. Eaton vs. William Northrop and H. T. Wickham, receivers, and also, for \$200.

Verdict entered—J. S. Moore & Sons vs. W. D. Arwood & Company, for distribution of funds of H. T. Marks, etc., vs. Sullivan Printing Company, for distribution of funds.

Verdict and judgment—Jaeger Rowe & Home Brewing Company, verdict and judgment for defendant.

**REAL ESTATE NOTES AND AUCTION SALES**  
Large Number of Country Lots to Be Sold in Henrico County.

All the real estate business done yesterday was such as could be attended to indoors. The continued downpour of rain all day cut off the auction sales that had been announced to take place, and prevented prospectors from looking at lots they may have had an eye on. Indoors a few private sales on the small order were made.

Weather permitting, the A. J. Chevening Company will sell at auction to-day two houses and lots, No. 112 Courts Street and No. 108 St. Paul Street. The sale will take place on the premises, beginning at 4:30 P. M.

Beginning at 1 o'clock next Thursday, at the front door of the Henrico county Courthouse, Messrs. Pollard and Bator will sell for A. C. Goode, special commissioner, 154 lots in the plan of Jenningsville, on the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Road, about eight miles from Richmond, in Henrico county. These lots are from fourteen to seventeen acres in size.

## APPRAISERS OF JAMES ESTATE

Find Property Worth Quarter of Million, Most of Which Goes to University.

LIBRARY OF UNTOLD VALUE

It Takes Nineteen Pages of Type-written Paper to List Titles of His Books.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

NORFOLK, Va., December 17.—The appraisal of the estate of the late Edward Wilson James, who willed most of his property to the University of Virginia, was filed in the clerk's office to-day by Merrill T. Cooke, Frederick J. Robinson, Walter H. Taylor, James U. Goode and Albert B. Schwartzkopf, appraisers, appointed by the Corporation Court on October 24th.

The following books were named as possessions of safety deposit vaults, held in the name of James, and in which were certificates of stock and other valuable papers belonging to him: The Norfolk Bank for Savings and Trust, the Citizens Bank of Norfolk; Planters' National Bank of Richmond; the Washington Loan and Trust Company, of Washington, D. C.; the Philadelphia Trust, Safe Deposit and Insurance Company, of Philadelphia, and the Merchants Trust and Deposit Company, of Baltimore, Md.

The estate is appraised at \$225,020.23.

James's library, No. 82 Fenchurch Street, contained volumes of the most valuable books that could be bought. Nineteen pages of typewriter paper contained the names of the books in the library. The will of James is to be contested by dissatisfied heirs.

## FORMER VIRGINIA MAN CELEBRATES GOLDEN WEDDING

An Ashley (Ill.) special to the St. Louis Globe-Democrat says: "The golden wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander H. Brown, of this city, was celebrated Tuesday evening, December 11. Alex. H. Brown was born in Charlottesville, Va., July 19, 1831. His father moved to Pembroke, Christian county, Ky., in 1840. He came to Ashley, Ill., July, 1855, and has remained here since, with the exception of three or four years.

"Mrs. Brown's maiden name was Sarah J. Stephenson. She was born in Old Franklin, Franklin county, Ill., May 27, 1833. Her father, Colonel W. J. Stephenson, moved with his family to Mount Vernon, Ill., later coming to Ashley in 1855, engaging in the hotel business. Miss Stephenson and Mr. Brown were married on December 11, 1856, by Rev. O. Kellogg. At that time Ashley was in its infancy, there being only a few dwellings and two or three business houses. Nine children were born to them, five of whom are living—C. H. Brown, of Ashley; Mrs. L. O. Carter, Centralia, Ill.; Kate S. Brown and Elizabeth J. Brown—all of whom were present.

only guests were present. Dr. W. C. Pace, of Ashley, Ill., who witnessed the marriage and signed the marriage certificate fifty years ago, is the only living witness, and was present on this occasion."

## Suspend Tobacco Sales.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]  
LYNCHBURG, Va., December 17.—The sales of loose tobacco on the Lynchburg market will be suspended from December 21, 1906, to January 7, 1907, by order of the Tobacco Association.

## Where Bears Are Plenty.

Bear hunting has become a popular sport in Cleared county, and zest is added to the chase in many cases by rewards posted by farmers. So numerous and bold have the animals become that sheep owners are suffering from their depredations. A party consisting of James Cannolly, his eight-year-old son, Thomas; Leonard Gearhart, Frank Smith, Wilson Wallace and Glen Schofield, of Penfield, has met with success in Lawrence township, where they have bagged three fine bears. Wallace has a record of 100 deer, seven bears and small game without limit. He has hunted for fifty-five years. Schofield has trapped twenty-two bears in seven years, and Gearhart, though a young man, has one of the best records for game in that region—Tyrono (Pa.) Herald.

## Women and Pennies.

A woman in a New York street car the other day let her resentment be known to all passengers by throwing on the floor the five pennies which the conductor had given to her when she offered him a dime for her fare. Women should not take it so seriously when a conductor tries to get even once in a while, for conductors say that they get all their pennies from women.—Buffalo Express.

## Increase Its Stock.

NEW YORK, December 17.—The directors of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway Company to-day voted to increase the company's preferred stock by \$5,577,000, and its common stock by \$23,182,740. This is an increase of about 50 per cent. of preferred stock and 25 per cent. of common.

## RUNAWAY ENGINE SIDESWIPES SHIFTER

Crews of Both Locomotives Escape Serious Injury as by Miracle.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

LYNCHBURG, Va., December 17.—A runaway locomotive in the yard of the Chesapeake and Ohio here this morning sideswiped a shifter a half a mile from where it started its flight, demolishing the left side of the engine as completely as the work could have been done intentionally. The crew of the shifter, as by a miracle, escaped with only a few cuts and bruises. The cab of the shifter was torn into splinters, and the runaway engine ploughed two feet into the ground before the steam escaped, leaving it helpless. Traffic was stopped six hours. If the collision had happened fifteen seconds earlier it would have been head-on, and directly over the junction with the main line of the Norfolk and Western. It is evident that the runaway engine, which was unattended when it started, was started by some one through mischief.

## As Xmas Approaches

Don't delay choosing a gift until the last moment. You can settle the question of the most critical in our Watches.

Quality. Low Prices.

## As Xmas Approaches

Don't delay choosing a gift until the last moment. You can settle the question of the most critical in our Watches.

### A Holiday Assortment Here Full of Suggestions for the Gift Maker.

Brooches.....\$2.00 to \$500	Bracelets.....\$3.00 to \$25
Rings.....\$1.00 to \$500	Fobs.....\$4.00 to \$30
Cuff Buttons.....\$2.00 to \$25	Lockets.....\$1.50 to \$50
Scarf Pins.....50c to \$20	Clocks of every kind. Candelabra
Chains.....\$2.00 to \$50	in large variety. Tea and Table
Hat Pins.....\$1.00 to \$10	Spoons, Knives and Forks.

Silverware, Cut Glass.

ENGRAVING DONE FREE.

## H. COHEN, 707 E. Main.

CASH OR CREDIT. CASH OR CREDIT

## Don't be Deceived

We are still doing business at the same old stand, in the same old way.

The Old Reliable House of

# John M. Higgins,

1610 E. Franklin St.

ESTABLISHED 1880.

We carry a complete line of choice Wines, Liquors, Cigars and Tobaccos.

City and out-of-town orders promptly filled.

PHONE 6082.